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Message Text

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63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 SCCT-02 SY-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /109 W
---------- 063799
R 262106Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9967

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CI, PINS, SHUM
SUBJECT: POLICE ROUNDUPS CONTINUE

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 4446; (B) SANTIAGO 4836

1. POLICE PERSONNEL, ASSISTED BY ARMY OR AIR FORCE TROOPS, MADE MASSIVE SWEEPS THROUGH TWO SANTIAGO SLUM NEIGHBORHOODS IN (CONCHALI AND SANTA ROSA DISTRICTS) AUGUST 23 AND 25. AREAS WERE CORDONED OFF SHORTLY AFTER 5:30 A.M. END OF CURFEW, AND ALL MALES AGE 15 OR OVER WERE HELD IN PLAZAS WHILE HOUSES WERE SEARCHED. SEVERAL HUNDRED WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF OUTSTANDING COURT ARREST ORDERS AGAINST THEM OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE LONG CRIMINAL RECORDS. PRESS SPECULATED THAT AT LEAST SOME WOULD BE SENT, LIKE OTHERS BEFORE THEM, TO PISAGUA DETENTION CAMP "TO PERFORM GOOD WORKS FOR THE COMMUNITY." SOME ACCOUNTS CLAIM SECURITY FORCES ALSO FOUND FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, "MARXIST PROPAGANDA," AND STREET-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT.

2. RAIDS WERE HEAVILY PUBLICIZED BY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, WHO ACCOMPANIED SECURITY FORCES. IN TV INTERVIEWS, SEVERAL SLUM-DWELLERS SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED THAT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS IN THEIR MIDST WERE BEING FORCEFULLY ROOTED OUT.

3. MEANWHILE, POLICE IN OTHER PARTS OF CHILE CONTINUE "WAR ON CRIME" (REF A) WITH NUMEROUS PERSONS DETAINED, MOST FOR
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VERY BRIEF TIME.

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4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH MAJOR TARGET OF POLICE RAIDS STILL APEARS TO BE COMMON CRIMINAL AND NOT SECURITY CASES, LINE BETWEEN THE TWO IS BLURRED. ONE PROBABLY INTENDED SIDE EFFECT IS TO REDUCE ANY POSSIBILITY OF EXTREME LEFT TERRORIST ACTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11 COUP ANNIVERSARY. PARTICIPATION IN RAIDS BY UNIFORMED MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ADDITION TO POLICE FORCES, AND HEAVY PUBLICITY, ALTHOUGH NOT TOTALLY UNPRECEDENTED, IS UNUSUAL. GOC EVIDENTLY INTENDS TO IMPRESS ON POPULATION CONTINUED VIGOR OF ANTI-CRIME/SECURITY OPERATIONS.
POPPER

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